

HOUSE BILL 958

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2004 Regular Session
4lr2233

By: **Delegates King, Gilleland, Barkley, Bartlett, Boschert, Cardin, Cryor,
Dumais, Feldman, Healey, Hixson, Howard, Kaiser, Murray, Myers,
Niemann, Ross, and V. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2004

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Teacher Mentoring Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Teacher Mentoring Programs;
4 providing for the membership and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task
5 Force to study and evaluate certain issues and make certain recommendations
6 by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
7 relating to the study of teacher mentoring programs in the public schools of the
8 State.

9 Preamble

10 WHEREAS, Based on recent studies by the Maryland State Department of
11 Education, approximately 50% of new Maryland teachers have no classroom
12 experience;

13 WHEREAS, National research studies have concluded that 50% of new teachers
14 leave teaching during their first 5 years and that a major reason teachers give for
15 leaving their profession is a lack of support and professional development;

16 WHEREAS, Teacher mentoring programs provide experienced mentors to work
17 with new teachers to ensure that Maryland has a teaching workforce capable of
18 delivering highly effective instruction and to promote the retention of highly qualified
19 teachers;

20 WHEREAS, The General Assembly passed the Quality Teacher Incentive Act of
21 1999 which, among other initiatives, established a competitive grant program to
22 encourage county boards of education to develop and expand teacher mentoring
23 programs;

24 WHEREAS, The Maryland Teacher Mentoring Program sunset in July 2003
25 under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act; and

1 WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly believes that the State should
2 continue to promote effective teacher mentoring programs in Maryland public
3 schools; now, therefore,

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 MARYLAND, That:

6 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Teacher Mentoring Programs in Maryland
7 public schools.

8 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

9 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
10 of the Senate;

11 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
12 the House;

13 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or a designee;

14 (4) a representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education,
15 appointed by the Association;

16 (5) two public school teachers who have served as mentors in a local
17 public school system, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

18 (6) two parents of public school students, appointed by the Governor; and

19 (7) a representative of a teacher organization, appointed by the State
20 Superintendent of Schools.

21 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall
22 appoint a chairman from the members appointed to the Task Force.

23 (d) The Maryland State Department of Education shall provide staff for the
24 Task Force.

25 (e) The Task Force shall:

26 (1) evaluate the level and adequacy of existing teacher mentoring
27 programs in public school systems in the State;

28 (2) evaluate the effectiveness of the Maryland Teacher Mentoring
29 Program established under the Quality Teacher Incentive Act of 1999;

30 (3) evaluate the need for additional teacher mentoring, particularly in
31 schools where teachers are most at risk of leaving, and the best methods to create
32 mentorship opportunities; and

1 (4) make recommendations regarding how the State can support and
2 promote teacher mentoring programs to train and retain highly qualified teachers in
3 Maryland public schools.

4 (f) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
5 Governor and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
6 and the House Ways and Means Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
7 Government Article, on or before December 1, 2004.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 June 1, 2004. It shall remain in effect for 7 months and, at the end of December 31,
10 2004, without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly, this Act shall
11 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.